

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to St John (*John 19:25-27*)

Near the cross of Jesus stood His mother, His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw His mother there, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to Her, "Woman, here is Your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took Her into his home. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection ~ Everything seems lost but faith lives on

Mary was promised many great things but She never saw any of them fulfilled in Her earthly life. *You will conceive and give birth to a son, and You are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end.* (Luke 1:31-33). Instead of seeing Jesus ascend the throne as a great king whose reign never ends, Mary saw Jesus living as a poor man whose life ended in shame and agony in a way reserved only for the worst of criminals.

Mary's faith never wavers because She is rooted in God. God is the foundation of Her life. *My soul glorifies the Lord and My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour* (Luke 1:46-47). Mary lives to glorify God. Though Mary may not understand in full the designs and plan of the Lord in Her life, She trusted and pondered them in Her heart. Mary's role in mankind's salvation is enshrined in Scripture right from the beginning. In the Garden of Eden after the disobedience of Adam and Eve, God the Father promised salvation and named Jesus and Mary the arch enemies of the ancient serpent (cf. Genesis 3:15). Mary's role in our salvation does not stop at the birth of Jesus. It continues till the end of the age in the Second Coming of Jesus who will once again come through Mary, this time in His triumphant glory through the triumph of Her Immaculate Heart. God has not found a better way to give us Jesus, His Son but only through His beloved masterpiece, Mary.

Jesus gives Mother Mary to us. "Woman, here is Your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." *From that time on, this disciple took Her into his home* (John 19:26-27). Jesus was not merely entrusting Mary to John for care in His absence. It was not a private request as it was made in public. John represented humanity, and Mary was given to us to help us walk in fidelity on the path of truth to our eternal destiny in heaven.

In Jacob make your dwelling (Sirach 24:8). God the Father wishes Mary to dwell in spirit in the hearts of His predestinate children prefigured by Jacob. Such children taught by Mary will be like Jesus who was obedient and subject to Her in His human childhood. *I have struck root among the glorious people, in the portion of the Lord, His heritage* (Sirach 25:12). When Mary's sterling virtues take root in our heart and soul, the Holy Spirit, Her spouse finds in our soul a welcome sanctuary for His work of grace in our on-going conversion to be fully conformed to God's image and will.

Indeed, of Zion it will be said, "This one and that one were born in Her, and the Most High Himself will establish Her." (Psalm 87:5). When Mary was given John representing poor and needy humanity, Mary adopted the human race for Her children whom She must help to give birth into heaven. Just as She gave Jesus Her flesh and blood for His humanity, Mary needs to form, nourish, protect, and guide Her children spiritually to be fit for heaven. Thus the Lord says: honour your father and your mother which includes Mary our spiritual mother.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for the inestimable gift of Mary Your mother. You gave Her to us because in Your infinite wisdom You know we need Her for our spiritual formation just as we need our earthly mother in our physical childhood. It pleased God the Father immensely to subject You to Her in Your human childhood as Mary was perfectly united to the eternal divine will. Obeying Her is obeying God the Father. May I too be likewise subjected to Her. Bestow upon me the gift of a true devotion to our Blessed Mother. May I love and cherish Her as You do. Help me imitate Her virtues especially Her faith, humility and purity as I consecrate myself to Her Immaculate Heart. Mary, the mother of Jesus and my own mother too, flood my soul with Your grace and be at my side always. Thank you Jesus. Praise You Jesus.